

our trade and cultural offices in over 150 countries and regions, in addition to the 30 nations that have formal ties with us. We will also seek to join international organizations, including the UN, and her peripheral organizations, because we have so much to contribute to the world;

8. Our ultimate goal is for the world to recognize us as a full member of the international community. We are well aware how important and difficult the process of reintegration into the international community will be for Taiwan. However, we have the resources and commitment that will allow us to make our positive contribution to peace, prosperity and good will in the world.

9. We will take full responsibility for our own destiny, but we believe that as an economically prosperous and democratically free nation seeking its proper place in the world, we can expect the nations of the world, particularly the European nations to assist us in this task.

10. We are prepared, too, to shoulder our share of responsibility for helping and assisting other nations, including mainland China, not in the spirit of paternalism or dominance but mutual cooperation and respect.

Looking forward towards the 21st century, I foresee a vibrant Republic of China actively promoting economic and trade cooperation with all regions around the world, but with emphasis on two areas—members of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) and the mainland China. This type of economic and trade cooperation will strengthen the regional economic infrastructure and will stimulate the flow of resources throughout the region, leading to further economic growth as we seek to become an Asia-Pacific regional operation center by the year 2000.

While pursuing economic growth and strength, the perfection of our democratic system remains to be our most cherished and most urged goal in our national policy. We firmly believe that no country could ever become a truly great country until it becomes fully democratic.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, with your understanding, sympathy and genuine support, as a democratic and sovereign state, in the midst of challenges, unfair, unequal treatments and tests of all kind, we, the Republic of China on Taiwan, shall rise up again.

I thank you all so much.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Friday, June 6, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,352,776,809,883.07. (Five trillion, three hundred fifty-two billion, seven hundred seventy-six million, eight hundred nine thousand, eight hundred eighty-three dollars and seven cents)

One year ago, June 6, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,139,284,000,000. (Five trillion, one hundred thirty-nine billion, two hundred eighty-four million)

Twenty-five years ago, June 6, 1972, the Federal debt stood at \$427,810,000,000 (Four hundred twenty-seven billion, eight hundred ten million) which reflects a debt increase of nearly \$5 trillion—\$4,924,966,809,883.07 (Four trillion, nine hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred sixty-six million, eight hundred nine thousand, eight hundred eighty-three dollars and seven cents) during the past 25 years.

RICHARD AND JANET CONES—SOUTH DAKOTA SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OF THE YEAR

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I was privileged to meet earlier this week with Richard and Janet Cone, owners of Cone Ag-Service, Inc., in Pierre, South Dakota. They were recently designated the South Dakota Small Business Owners of the Year by the Small Business Administration.

This award is a testament to the Cones' drive and business acumen over the last 30 years, during which they have provided high quality, liquid fertilizer to South Dakota farmers. Like many small businesses, they began at the kitchen table and have grown into a business that employs eight full-time and six part-time employees.

The Cones' success story also includes timely and appropriate assistance from a Federal agency, the Small Business Administration. This agency joined with a local lender to help finance the Cone Ag-Service at a crucial point in its growth, proving that even the best business idea may need financial backing to come to fruition.

But, the most important measure of Cone Ag-Service's success is its customers, who loyally return year after year. The Cones can rely upon the word-of-mouth communication by their customers to generate new business. This type of advertising can't be bought with money; rather, it takes a good product and responsive customer service.

Nearly 200 years ago, the expedition of Lewis and Clark set in motion a great westward expansion of settlers across America. As many of these pioneers made their way up the Missouri River, one can only imagine what entered their minds as they climbed atop the river bluffs and gazed out over the limitless plains of Dakota Territory. Surely, there was very little to remind them of the comforts they had left behind or of the riches they dreamed lay ahead. But there were opportunities to be found, hidden amidst the prairie grass, and a few adventurous souls dared to settle here and make South Dakota their home.

That frontier spirit still runs through the veins of South Dakotans today, but the horizons that await us are no longer hidden. Small businesses like Cone Ag-Service are being created to take advantage of the commercial opportunities our State holds. They are the pioneers of today and I salute them.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to join with many of my colleagues in saluting a great friend, patriot, and statesman—the senior Senator from South Carolina, STROM THURMOND. Listening to the debate recently, I realized that many were speaking of their personal experiences

while serving with Senator THURMOND. I, however, would like to share with my colleagues the greatest story I know about Senator THURMOND—the true story of his life. To me it illustrates one key thing: that the hallmark of STROM THURMOND's life has been his dedication to serving others.

Senator THURMOND was born in 1902 and raised in Edgefield, SC. Following his graduation in 1923 from Clemson University, young STROM THURMOND began his career, first as a teacher and coach, then, at the age of 21, as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve. Eventually, Senator THURMOND went on to become the county superintendent of education, city attorney, county attorney, State Senator and circuit judge of South Carolina. From 1942 to 1946, Senator THURMOND, along with millions of other brave young men, served in World War II. For his service in the American, European, and Pacific theaters, Senator THURMOND earned 5 battle stars and 18 decorations and medals, including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart, and the Bronze Star for valor. Upon his return to South Carolina, STROM THURMOND was elected to serve as Governor of South Carolina. During his tenure as Governor, Senator THURMOND was a candidate for President of the United States. Five years later, in 1954, STROM THURMOND was elected as a write-in candidate for U.S. Senator and has served with distinction in this body as chairman of two prestigious committees, as well as serving as the President pro tempore.

The many personal sacrifices that Senator THURMOND has made over the past nine decades demonstrate his respect for our institution of government and our Nation's history. He knows all too well that when one fails to stand for his principles, those principles will perish. And STROM THURMOND, as a young paratrooper, as a Presidential candidate, and now, as a U.S. Senator, stands—sometimes all alone—for the greatest principles on which America was founded.

STROM even had to switch parties—not once, but effectively, twice, to keep advancing his strongly held principles and ideals. In a sense, though Senator THURMOND has been a Dixiecrat, a Democrat and a Republican, he has always been, most of all, a proud American.

STROM THURMOND has witnessed incredible growth and change in our Nation and our world, and his knowledge of our past and vision for our future is crucial to our present. The Senator's strong leadership, patriotism, dependability, and devotion to duty is inspiring—and his stamina is legendary. The people of South Carolina are fortunate to have such an able gentleman represent them; we here in the U.S. Senate are lucky to stand with him; and all Americans should be grateful for Senator THURMOND's 41 years of service in the Senate and proud of his 94 years of service to this country.